

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in a system having a host telecommunications switch connecting a public switched telephone network (PSTN) with a remote switch module (RSM), the apparatus comprising:

a monitor ~~connection~~ for receiving ~~out-of-band~~ out-of-band signaling from a the host telecommunications switch; and,

a controller ~~coupled to~~ associated with the monitor ~~connection~~ and configured to monitor traffic between a the publicly switched telephone network (PSTN) and a the remote switching module (RSM) to compile usage data therebetween.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is further configured to monitor traffic through an umbilical link between the RSM and the host telecommunications switch and to segregate traffic between the PSTN and the RSM from other traffic on the umbilical link.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to monitor called number information within ~~out-of-band~~ out-of-band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to monitor calling number information within ~~out-of-band~~ out-of-band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to monitor originating point codes within the ~~out-of-band~~ out-of-band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is

configured to monitor destination point codes within the ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report incoming usage to the remote switching module from all other switches within the PSTN.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report outgoing usage from the remote switching module to all other switches within the PSTN.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report usage of the umbilical link between the host telecommunications switch and the remote switching module in both directions.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report usage of the umbilical link for calls between lines terminated by the remote switching module.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report total usage related to each originating point code for calls terminating at the remote switching module.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to report total usage related to each destination point code for calls terminating at the remote switching module.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring PSTN/RSM call traffic comprising the steps of:

(A) a controller receiving ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling from a host telecommunications switch which channels calls from an PSTN to an RSM;

(B) the controller trapping on ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling related to a range of numbers related to lines terminated by the RSM; and

(C) the controller gathering call information related to those calls of interest,

including calls associated with lines terminated by the RSM, to compile usage data between the PSTN and the RSM.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of: (D) the controller compiling call related data associated with the calls of interest.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of: (E) the controller providing reports related to the calls of interest.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the step D of compiling data associated with calls of interest includes the step of: (D1) the controller monitoring calling number information within ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the step D of compiling data associated with calls of interest includes the step of: (D2) the controller monitoring originating point codes within the ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the step D of compiling data associated with calls of interest includes the step of: (D3) the controller monitoring destination point codes within the ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling from the host telecommunications switch.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step E of reporting includes the step of: (E1) the controller reporting incoming usage to the remote switching module from all other switches within the PSTN.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step E of reporting includes the step of: (E2) the controller reporting outgoing usage from the remote switching module to all other switches within the PSTN.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step E of reporting includes the step of: (E3) the controller reporting total usage related to each destination point code

for calls terminating at the remote switching module.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for use with an remote switch monitoring system comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code thereon comprising:

code for receiving ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling from a host telecommunications switch which channels calls from the PSTN to an RSM;

code for trapping on ~~out-of-band~~out-of-band signaling related to a range of numbers elated to lines terminated by a RSM;

and code for gathering call information related to those calls of interest, including calls associated with lines terminated by the RSM, to compile usage data between the PSTN and the RSM.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising: code for compiling call related data associated with the calls of interest.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22 further comprising: code for providing reports related to the calls of interest.